Melissa Malone

This I Believe

     For some people, being a doctor in a busy hospital, saving lives is a way of life. In their own way, they connect with the people they treat, and change their lives. Sometimes the change is positive as in perfecting treatment for a fatal disease, or it may be a negative change like a surgery gone wrong. Dancers, singers, and artists have the power to change a person’s perspective or life as well, but this power is not as immediate as a doctor handing out medication, but more of an influence, a voice of reason and power. I believe that through the use of art, dance, or song, a person can influence others.

    Being a dancer myself, I know what influence my dancing has on my family and friends. I not only dance for myself, but I dance for them and the significant people in my life. In modesty, I know that my dancing can bring tears or smiles, because I have witnessed it. My intention when I dance is to get the message across: to have whoever is watching feel the way I feel right at that moment, whether it is joy or aggression, angst or humor. I have been dancing for twelve out of the seventeen years of my life, and I know and understand what powers I use while dancing with my feet and feel inside my heart.

    Unknown influence is what mostly happens when someone writes a song or paints a picture. Their intention is to create a feeling, not just a thought. Knowing you have influenced someone is the most amazing accomplishment, but hoping that you clearly got your message across in a meaningful way to the rest of the world is another story. Some people may not receive your message, however that doesn’t mean eighty million other people didn’t. Even if you draw a picture in a sketchbook with no intention of showing it to anyone, someone may find it and look at that drawing and see something that connects to them in their life in some way. Then maybe, just maybe, that person may realize something he or she has to change or do to feel better in their life. When you turned on the radio and heard “I Got a Feeling,” by the Black Eyed Peas, for the first time, did you not instantly feel happy and hopeful? Perhaps a member of the band had a good feeling, and wrote this song to share the joy of his or her happy day with the world.

    Influence from art, dance, or song, can be intentional or unintentional. Still, a connection occurs between the artist, the dancer, or the singer, and a person they may or may not know. The bond may just be surface emotions or may mean something greater to the respondent. However, a message is still heard in all dance, art, or song. You just have to find that message that is presented.